



St Benedict's Centre Newsletter

November 2020

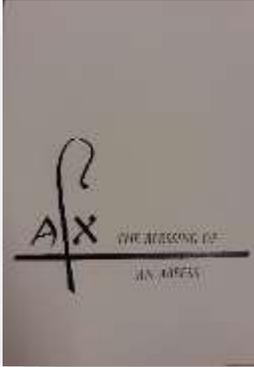
Our last newsletter was back in May announcing that the Centre had to close because of lockdown. The site remained closed until September.

In September we were able to partially open. We have been delighted to welcome back individual guests for personal quiet days and study days. Some staff from St Augustine's College of Theology are working on site and students have access to the library and study rooms. We have welcomed students on the Rochester Lay Formation programme some joining classes at the Centre and some joining by zoom. The blended learning is working well.

We have a full risk assessment and plan to ensure people on site are safe. Those booking are sent a copy in order to be aware of what we have put in place. At the moment we cannot offer refreshments but we are planning to have facilities for making hot drinks in every study room.

With the new lockdown we are now no longer able to welcome groups but we can still welcome individuals who would like to come for a study or quiet day.

A New Abbess



In September the Community elected a new Abbess following Mother Mary David's 12 year term of office. Sr Anne was elected. On Wednesday 4th November she was installed and blessed as Abbess by Bishop Laurie Green the community 'Visitor'. We are delighted to welcome Mother Anne who will already be known to many of us from the lectio days she has led at the Centre. Mother Anne will now be a trustee of St Benedict's Centre and we look forward to an even deeper relationship with her. Please pray for Mother Anne and the community as they settle into this new phase of ministry.

Future Events

We had planned to run a 'kingdom' quiet day in November. This cannot happen now.

We are planning to run **Advent quiet days** in December, more information about these will follow once we are in a position to advertise following lockdown.

We are conscious that we may have to change arrangements for the centre at short notice. We will keep those who book for events or individual days fully informed.

Day Guests



Day guests are welcome at St Benedict's Centre. Clergy and lay leaders have particularly appreciated the opportunity for a

day apart in the current challenges of ministry.

You can book an individual study/retreat room for £10. This includes the use of the beautiful grounds and the opportunity for private prayer in the pilgrim chapel.

To book your day of rest and retreat contact: bookings@stbenedictscentre.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Benedict's.

You can also find us on: www.stbenedictscentre.org
twitter: @stBenedictsCtr Facebook: @StBenedictsCentre